

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:AR DAY:TH:CF

APPROVED BY P:PCHABIB

NEA - MR ATHERTON

S/S : JLHOGANSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 184240

EXDIS//FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, US, EG, MPOL

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN CONCERN OVER LIBYAN INTENTIONS

REF: TUNIS 5177

1. FROM REFTEL YOU ARE AWARE OF TUNISIAN CONCERN THAT QADHAFI MAY BE PLANNING OVERT OR COVERT OPERATIONS AGAINST TUNISIA AND OF THEIR REQUEST FOR INCREASED U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE IN AREA. TUNISIANS MAY ALSO BE IN TOUCH WITH EGYPTIANS ABOUT THE PROBLEM, AND WE WISH IN ANY CASE TO KEEP CAIRO INFORMED AND REASSURED OF OUR SUPPORT FOR TUNISIA. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE CONVEY THE FOLLOWING TO THE EGYPTIANS AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL.

2. THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT HAS EXPRESSED TO US ITS URGENT CONCERNS THAT THE LIBYANS MAY BE PLANNING SUBVERSIVE OR OVERT AGGRESSIVE ACTS AGAINST TUNISIA WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. THEY HAVE ASKED FOR OUR SUPPORT, AND SPECIFICALLY

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REQUESTED THAT WE INCREASE OUR PLANNED NAVAL PRESENCE IN

TUNISIAN PORTS DURING THIS PERIOD. WE ARE INFORMING THE
TUNISIANS THAT AS A FIRST STEP WE ARE ADVANCING THE DATES
FOR THE VISIT OF TWO U.S. NAVY SHIPS TO TUNIS, AND THAT WE
ARE LOOKING URGENTLY AT WHAT ADDITIONAL THINGS WE CAN DO TO
DEMONSTRATE OUR SUPPORT.

3. YOU SHOULD ASK THE EGYPTIANS IF THEY HAVE ANY INDICATIONS
OF LIBYAN PLANS FOR HOSTILE ACTIVITY AGAINST TUNISIA IN THE
NEAR FUTURE. ROBINSON

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